

CDA BIDs Invited to Discuss District Homelessness Trends and Approaches

You may recall CDA's May *Downtown Digest* announcing an upcoming forum for BIDs to discuss homelessness, as existing in downtowns throughout the state. To give us more time to prepare and to accommodate invited expert speakers, we have rescheduled the event as follows:

Date: Thursday **July 30, 2015**
Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Location: The Concourse Hotel at Los Angeles International Airport
6225 W. Century Boulevard, Los Angeles CA 90045
Parking on-site: Valet = \$20; Self = \$14

The impetus for this forum is recognition that as a BID community we are often on the front lines of directly dealing with homelessness issues in our districts. However, we tend to be reactive when fighting ineffective and potentially detrimental legislation to remedy conditions.

Now we have a great opportunity to lead on this issue by coming together and learning about related trends and activities, and perhaps to adopt approaches that will benefit our districts and contribute toward ending homelessness.

During this one day session, we will learn about and discuss:

- What are the key trends in homelessness throughout the state in the wake of the official homeless count conducted in January 2015?
- What factors are contributing to the changing nature of homelessness in California?
- How does (lack of) housing affordability contribute to rising homelessness?
- How have changes in our criminal justice laws and how "re-entry" from jail or prison may be impacting communities?
- What are the trends in mental health policy and reform proposals that can assist individuals who need treatment?
- How are individual BIDs impacted by and what actions are they taking to address the issues?
- In what ways can business districts be constructive in policy development and systems change?

Speakers to be announced – we will send follow-up e-mails and also post agenda and information updates on the California Downtown Association website.

Forum fee is \$35.00 including lunch. To register go to www.californiadowntown.com, **Homeless Forum**.

Our sincere gratitude to Laurie Hughes of the Gateway to LA BID who secured the venue. And thanks to Jessica Lall of South Park (LA) BID and Steve Hilliard of Streetplus, we are pleased to have garnered and greatly appreciate the sponsorship of **Streetplus**, a company that provides safety and ambassador services to BIDs throughout the United States including downtown LA's South Park, Historic Core and Arts District. For more information go to: www.streetplus.net

Forum steering committee members include: Blair Besten, Karin Flood, Dion Dwyer, Marie Rumsey, Lauren Schlau, and Kerry Morrison. To contact the committee, please e-mail kerry@hollywoodbid.org.

We look forward to your attendance and participation at this most important first step to change the way we understand and deal with homelessness in our districts.